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OCDM Official Denies Flouting U2 Spy Flights

By ROBERT N. BRANSON
By Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—Paul C. McGrath, former Central Intelligence Agency official now assigned to the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, has flatly denied saying U2 spy plane flights over Russia should be continued.

He said he was "horrified" to find himself misquoted in a newspaper interview.

McGrath, whose OCDM title is deputy director of intelligence and national security affairs, works mainly in Washington but is a frequent visitor to Battle Creek, where he lectures at the OCDM staff college and conducts briefings.

On May 26 McGrath spoke at San Diego, Calif. Next day the San Diego Union printed an interview which quoted him as saying that "the U2 supplied a primary source of information that cannot be replaced for some time."

The newspaper also reported that McGrath said: "I personally believe we could still be flying U2's over the Soviet Union without a chance of their being shot down."

McGrath's denial has been widely distributed by OCDM. He said he saw himself in print after boarding a plane at San Diego to return to Washington.

"In the first place I do not think it was a mistake to halt the flights. In the second place I would not be such an idiot as to say so even if I did," McGrath said.

William F. Heimlich, OCDM's director of public affairs in Washington, said McGrath

worked for the Central Intelligence Agency until joining OCDM but dropped all ties with CIA when he switched jobs. It was CIA which was in charge of this country's super-secret reconnaissance flights over Russia.

Heimlich said that while McGrath's present title at OCDM includes the word "intelligence," his duties include no espionage work or other undercover activities of the CIA type.

"The word 'intelligence' has a different meaning at OCDM," Heimlich said. "Dr. McGrath's job is to study international events and keep our agency informed about things that are happening in other parts of the world."

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